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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/705,069	11/02/2000	MOTOSUGU ABE	SONY-UO381	4547

7590

05/27/2004

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EXAMINER

ABEBE, DANIEL DEMELASH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2655

DATE MAILED: 05/27/2004

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/705,069

Applicant(s)

ABE ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel D Abebe

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-8, 11-16, 19-24, 27-32, 35-41 and 44-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 4, 6-8, 11, 12, 14-16, 19, 20, 22-24, 27, 28, 30-32, 35, 36, 38-41, 44, 45 and 47-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 13, 21, 29, 37 and 46 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 3, 4, 11-12, 19-20, 27-28, 35-36, 41, 44-45 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (6,347,185).

As to claim 3, Takahashi teaches classifying audio-visual data, comprising:

Dividing a signal into time of blocks (Col.4 ,lines 30-32);

Performing feature analysis in order to extract plurality of information regarding the characteristics of the signal, wherein a table of content is then generated corresponding to the feature analysis performed and stored for future retrieval in the media, and where characterizing and classifying the signal includes information about the signals for eg. "whether the segment comprised muted audio, music, or conversational speech" (abstract; Col.1, lines 55-58; Col.2, lines 2-11).

As to claim 4, Takashi teaches where the signal is classified into plurality of categories (Col.4, lines 28-31).

Claims 11-12, 19-20, 27-28, 35-36, 41, 44-45 and 50 are analogous to claims 3 and 4 and are rejected for the foregoing reasons by Takahashi.

Previously rejected

As to Claims 6-7, 14-15, 22-23, 30-31, 38-39 and 47-48 the previous rejection by Takahashi in view of Pertrushin is maintained.

Also the rejection of claims 8, 16, 24, 32, 40 and 49 by Takahashi in view of WU is maintained.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 13, 21, 29, 37, 46 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 3, 4, 11, 19, 27, 35 and 44 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Previously the examiner had erroneously conceded that Takashi doesn't teach the limitation where the blocks are classified on the basis of types structure that signals have, however, After reviewing the Takahashi art in view the particular limitation, the examiner found that Takashi does teach where the audio signal is classified according to whether the segment is silence, music or speech as shown in Col.2, lines 10-12.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel D Abebe whose telephone number is 703-308-5543. The examiner can normally be reached on monday-friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703-305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Daniel Abebe, Primary examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Abebe', with a stylized, flowing script.

May 24, 2004